



FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM CENTER

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Vietnam Center Recruits Students in Vietnam



Students in Ho Chi Minh City have their picture taken with Vietnam Center Director Dr. Steve Maxner

By Steve Maxner, Ph.D

Texas Tech University Chancellor Kent Hance has a remarkable vision for our university. In addition to preparing the largest capital campaign in TTU history, Chancellor Hance is setting Texas Tech on a path that will increase the student body of the university from 28,000 to 40,000 students. Chancellor Hance wants to grow all areas of the university, to include the international student population. He sees this as essential to maintaining an intellectually and culturally diverse campus. The Vietnam Center

is very excited by Chancellor Hance's leadership and vision and is pleased to be playing a new role to help bring more students from Vietnam to Texas Tech.

At the request of Texas Tech University Provost Dr. William Marcy, the Vietnam Center organized a series of recruiting seminars in Vietnam in June and July, 2007. The purpose of these seminars was to inform Vietnamese students, their parents, university faculty and staff, as well as other Vietnamese government officials about the academic programs and opportunities for Vietnamese students to study abroad at Texas Tech.

Engaging in these seminars allowed us to build upon the established relationships between the Vietnam Center, Texas Tech, Vietnamese Institutions of Higher Education, and Vietnam's government agencies and ministries. This recruiting program was also designed to build on the momentum recently created by the newly established academic agreement between the Institute for International Relations in Ha Noi, Vietnam, and the Graduate School at Texas Tech University that created a joint Master of Arts degree program in American Studies.

The TTU recruiting delegation consisted of Dr. Stephen Maxner, Director, Vietnam Center, and Mr. Khanh Le, Associate Director for Vietnamese Affairs. We conducted seminars in Can Tho, Ho Chi Minh City, Hue, Ha Noi, and Da Nang. A recurring topic raised throughout our visits was a reminder that Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) has called for an increase in the number of Vietnamese university faculty and staff, as well

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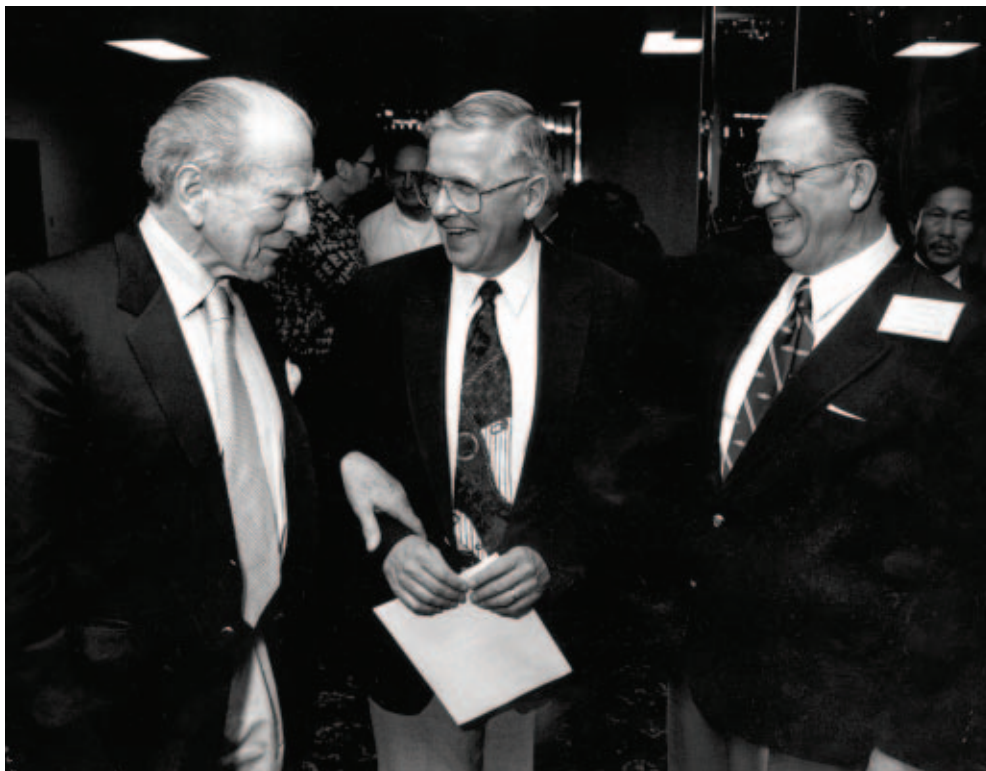
From the Executive Director

By James Reckner, Ph.D

When we first began the Vietnam project in 1989, the group of Vietnam veterans who were the initial driving force wished to collect and preserve Vietnam-related records and hand them over to the younger generation. The handing over process has been in progress in recent years as the staff of the Vietnam Center and Vietnam Archive have been almost exclusively younger people.

On July 11, 2007, we took another major step in this direction when Dr. Steve Maxner (steve.maxner@ttu.edu) relieved me as Director of the Vietnam Center, and I undertook a new, but related, mission. I must confess that it was difficult to hand over the reins of a project that has been a central feature of my life for eighteen years; however, it clearly is time. In Steve Maxner we Vietnam veterans have a strong and very competent member of the younger generation who will continue to develop and strengthen the Vietnam Archive and all of the projects related to the Vietnam Center. I wish him every success in his new assignment.

Dr. Maxner's promotion is part of a larger realignment as Texas Tech University undertakes a broader mission. The university has now established a "Center for War & Diplomacy in the Post-Vietnam War Era" which, with its related archive will begin to do for America's conflicts since 1975 what the Vietnam Center has done for the Vietnam War and Vietnam veterans since 1989. There is an urgent need to begin preserving records and memories from our servicemen and women who served in these later conflicts, particularly electronic records such as e-mails and blogs, which to a large extent have now replaced letters home. We hope in the very near future to hire an archivist to specialize in this field, and ultimately a new history professor specializing in US military history since 1975 with the concurrent duty of director of the new center. In the in-



A look back at The Vietnam Center's earlier days. From left to right: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., Dr. James Reckner, Ph.D, Vice Admiral Emmett H. Tidd. From The Vietnam Center's Symposium in 1996.

terim, Dr. Ron Milam, a Vietnam combat veteran and history professor, will direct this new center. You can contact him at ron.milam@ttu.edu.

To coordinate the work of the Vietnam Center and the Post-Vietnam Center, and also to draw the Department of Aerospace Science and the Department of Military Science into a larger academic organization with a military emphasis, Texas Tech University has established "The Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy & Reconciliation" (IMCDR) for which I now serve as executive director.

Our vision for IMCDR is that it will develop as an archive-based research facility focusing on America in the world from 1950 to the present. As such, the institute will guide the continuing development of its component research centers and archives, following our long-held practice of preserving the record of all points of view on all issues. The IMCDR also will exploit relationships developed by the component centers to pursue opportunities for projects and in-

teractions that would further the cause of international reconciliation.

For the Vietnam veterans who have so loyally supported us over the past eighteen years, let me reassure you that collecting and preserving the record of America's Vietnam experience remains our core mission. In his message implementing these changes, the Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs of Texas Tech University indicated that the changes were being taken "to strengthen the Vietnam Center's position, and as a natural development based on that center's many successes."

Personally, I plan to continue working for and with these important programs for several years into the future. I trust my former comrades-in-arms from the Vietnam War will appreciate that it is equally important for us to begin the work of preserving the records and memories of the young men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan today, and of all those who have served since 1975. ★

Sixth Triennial Vietnam Symposium Call for Papers

March 13-15, 2008

Lubbock, TX

The Sixth Triennial Vietnam Symposium will take place on March 13-15, 2008, and will be held at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza in Lubbock, Texas. The Center has already begun preliminary planning and has issued a number of invitations for key speakers for the program.

A key Vietnam-related anniversary in 2008 is the 40th anniversary of the Tet Offensive and all of the remarkable events that unfolded in 1968. This included a shift to more critical and biased media coverage of the war, a progressive shift in American public opinion, the political fallout and President Johnson's decision not to seek reelection, the

Presidential election of 1968 and emergence of Richard Nixon, etc...

Our symposia are open for papers examining any aspect of the American involvement in Vietnam and we encourage anyone interested in presenting a paper to submit a one-page proposal to the Vietnam Center. This anniversary, however, suggests a range of topics that participants might wish to explore. As always, graduate students are strongly encouraged to submit proposals.

Those interested in presenting papers (either individual or as completed panels) should provide proposals as soon as possible. **The deadline for submitting proposals is December 31, 2007.** Please format proposals to resemble an abstract to include the author's name, title/affiliation, and contact information, along

with proposed title, thesis/purpose, and main points. Please limit proposal length to a maximum of 500 words and submit them to:

Stephen Maxner, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
The Vietnam Archive
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041.

You may also submit proposals via email to steve.maxner@ttu.edu. If you make an email submission but do not receive notification of receipt within five days, please call 806-742-9010.

Thank you and we look forward to you joining us for this important event! ★

Vietnam Center Scholarships are a Great Opportunity to Help Young People in Southeast Asia... and are Tax Deductible!



As the Christmas season is upon us, we find ourselves in the spirit of giving. We also see the tax season looming on the horizon. The Vietnam Center proudly supports several scholarship programs that help students in Vietnam and Cambodia to attend universities in those countries. These scholarships are very modest - \$100-\$125 per student - but



that sum is enough to cover tuition for a year in Vietnam or living expenses for six months in Cambodia. The Vietnam Center works closely with universities to make sure we give these scholarships to students who have financial need as well as a proven academic record. There is 100% flow through (no university costs) and we hand deliver the scholarships di-



rectly to the students. If you are interested in donating to any of our tax-deductible scholarship programs, please call the Vietnam Center at 806-742-9010. This Christmas season, we hope you will consider helping some of these young men and women in Southeast Asia to be more successful in life through education. ★

continued from page 1

as Vietnamese civil servants, to study abroad in the US to earn advanced degrees at the MA and PhD levels. Because of the long-standing relationship that exists between the Vietnam Center and universities in Vietnam, Texas Tech is in an exceptional and unique position to attract many Vietnamese students as a part of this initiative.

The seminars conducted throughout Vietnam featured a brief presentation about the Vietnam Center and Archive, a detailed discussion of the undergraduate and graduate programs available at TTU, and the admission and other requirements for international students. Following the presentations, every audience engaged in a lively question and answer session, asking very detailed questions about associated costs, admission requirements, TOEFL scores and English language requirements, acquiring student visas, and the many academic programs at TTU.

We conducted the first recruiting seminar on the campus of Can Tho University where we were greeted by university officials and 75 students and faculty. TTU has a long-standing relationship with CTU and a Memorandum of Understanding that facilitates academic exchanges and educational programs, to include a Vietnamese student scholarship program (to learn more about this, please see page 3).

The TTU recruiting seminar in Ho Chi Minh City featured an audience of nearly 150 students, parents, faculty, staff, and other Vietnamese government officials. Contributing to the success of this particular seminar was the support of Vietnam News Agency as well as the participation of Mr. Quan Manh Ha, a

TTU PhD student in English, and Ms. Dana Dang, a recent graduate from TTU in Biology. Both of them provided assistance in translating seminar information for audience members, assisting during an extended question and answer session, and providing personal testimony regarding their studies at Texas Tech. Of

This allowed us to thoroughly and effectively address this vital question.

The recruiting seminar held at Hue University featured approximately 40 students and faculty, all of whom expressed a sincere interest in the many programs and opportunities at TTU. The Vietnam Center has been visiting Hue University for many years and, in addition to the seminar this summer, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with them in July 2007 to help establish exchanges and joint academic programs.

Like the seminar held in Ho Chi Minh City, the Vietnam Center recruiting seminar in Ha Noi featured approximately 50 guests to include students, faculty, staff, and government officials. We were assisted by Dr. Nguyen Thi Thanh Phuong, recent graduate from TTU and now director of the Vietnam Education Foundation office in Ha Noi. The net result of this seminar was extremely positive as those in attendance were very interested in learning more about the degree programs at Texas Tech to include the parents of several students. This particular workshop also resulted in several students and parents choosing Texas Tech as their university. One outcome from the Ha Noi Recruiting Seminar was an invitation to conduct an additional seminar at Duy Tan University in Da Nang.

This semi-private small university currently offers undergraduate courses of study and our seminar included approximately 60 students, faculty and staff.

The TTU recruiting effort in Vietnam was a tremendous success. We look forward to continuing these projects that enhance the international reputation of our remarkable university. In these and all of our endeavors, we are very thankful for the support we receive from all of the Friends of the Vietnam Center. ★



Texas Tech students Quan Manh Ha (top) and Dana Dang (bottom) speak to Vietnamese students in Ho Chi Minh City



the five seminars conducted in Vietnam, the one held in Ho Chi Minh City was, by far, the most successful. Audience members asked very thoughtful and serious questions about attending including an inquiry regarding the shootings at Virginia Tech. Thankfully, immediately following the Virginia Tech incident, TTU President Dr. Jon Whitmore provided timely guidance about security protocols to students, faculty, and parents, and announced an internal review of all applicable TTU policies and procedures.

Vietnamese Delegation Visits Archive

**Vietnam Archive signs agreement
with the National Archives of Vietnam**

By Mary McLain Saffell, C.A.

A delegation of archivists from the State Records and Archives Department of Vietnam (SRADV) visited the Vietnam Archive in August to participate in a digitization workshop and sign a cooperative agreement with the Archive. The visit was part of a nationwide trip that included stops in Washington, D.C and Boston.

The delegation included SRADV Director General Dr. Tran Hoang, Deputy Director Ms. Nguyen Thi Tam, Director of the Scientific Research Center Ms. Tiet Hong Nga, Deputy Chief for Planning Ms. Le Thi Bao Lien, and Director for Security Preservation Mr. Vu Van Sach.

Before arriving in Lubbock, the delegation traveled to Washington, D.C. and toured the Library of Congress and the National Archives. The group then departed for Boston, where they toured the Northeast Document Conservation Center. They ended their two-week trip to the U.S. with a three-day visit to Texas Tech and the Vietnam Archive.

Vietnam Archive staff conducted a digitization workshop for the SRADV delegation. The two-day workshop focused on digitization methods used in the creation of the Virtual Vietnam Archive, the online resource providing access to 2.8 million digitized documents. Workshop sessions focused on planning digital projects, scanning documents and large format items, photographs, microfilm, and creating digital files from audio/visual materials. The Vietnamese delegates were very receptive to the information and are anxious to develop digital projects in their home country.

Also on the agenda was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Texas Tech's Vietnam Archive and the State Records and Archives Department of Vietnam. This cooperative agreement entails the organizations exchanging documents and materials,



Top: Vietnam Center Director Dr. Steve Maxner (left), and SRADV Director General Dr. Tran Hoang (right) sign memorandum of understanding. Bottom: Dr. Hoang (right) presents Dr. Maxner (left) with a facsimile of Dr. Dang Thuy Tram's military personnel file.



jointly developing exhibits, and sharing ideas and information through additional workshops. To initiate this new arrangement, Dr. Hoang presented the Archive with a facsimile of Dr. Dang Thuy Tram's military personnel file. Dr. Tram's war-time diary is housed at the Archive.

The Vietnam Center and Archive was pleased to provide SRADV with information about our digitization efforts. We look forward to working with SRADV in the future thanks to our cooperative agreement with their organization. ★

About Us

The *Friends of The Vietnam Center* newsletter is a quarterly publication produced by the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University. Articles are written by staff or reprinted from other publications with permission. Newsletter layout and design produced by Victoria Lovelady, Senior Editor for the Vietnam Center and Archive. You may contact her by email at victoria.lovelady@ttu.edu.

Exploring So

Recipients of the Lee Roy Herron Scholarship spend a month visiting Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand

By Steve Maxner, Ph.D

The Vietnam Center hosted its annual trip to Southeast Asia from July 1 through July 31, 2007, as part of the Lee Roy Herron Scholarship program.

This scholarship allows the Vietnam Center to escort a group of graduate and undergraduate students to Southeast Asia as part of the Study Abroad program at Texas Tech allowing students to learn first-hand about the history, culture, and people of that region of the world. This year's recipients included

James Barber Cao Dai Temple (History),

Dana Dang (Biology), Gary Jones (International Affairs), Rosa Phifer (History), John Southard (History), and Natalie Swindle (Sociology). Also along for this trip was Dr. Jeff Woods, associate professor of history at Arkansas State Technological College, who conducted research for a book about the life of William Colby, former US Ambassador and Director of Central Intelligence. Dr. Ron Milam, assistant professor of history at Texas Tech served as our faculty advisor for the trip while Mr. Khanh Le, associate director for Vietnamese Affairs for the Vietnam Center, provided his

indispensable services planning and coordinating our activities. Dr. Stephen Maxner, Director of the Vietnam Center, led the delegation.

For most of our students, this was their first travel outside of the United

most notable experiences for our students is the overall friendliness of the Vietnamese people. From North to South, they are easy to smile and eager to interact with Americans. This is particularly the case with the younger generation of Vietnamese, which is extremely important in a country where roughly two-thirds of the population is less than thirty years of age.

The delegation started this trip visiting many sites of history and culture in Hanoi as well as various US government offices. The cultural sites included the Temple of Literature, the oldest university in Vietnam created in the 11th Century. The timing of our visit was fortuitous as it coincided with the national university entrance examinations. As a result, the Temple was full of students praying and burning incense in the hopes of performing well enough to gain entrance into university. As there are a limited number of openings for new students each year, the process is highly competitive. TTU students walked away from this experience with a much better appreciation for the abundance we have in the US system of higher education.

Another remarkable site visited this year was the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology. This facility is dedicated to presenting the history of ethnic minori-



Cao Dai Temple

States and it provided them with a study abroad experience unlike any other offered at Texas Tech. As the students departed Lubbock, they soon realized that the twenty-hour trans-Pacific flights literally took them half way around the world. The delegation arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam, where the students immediately experienced the oppressive heat and humidity so often described by American veterans of the war.

While the weather in Vietnam has not changed much since the 1960s and 1970s, the temperament of the people and country certainly has. One of the

South East Asia

ties in Vietnam but also portrays the history of Vietnam in the immediate aftermath of the war. What the delegation found most striking about this museum was the departure from the typical propaganda and proselytizing that is so common in Vietnam's war museums. The museum presented a very balanced and critical view of post-war rationing stamps and the many hardships suffered by the Vietnamese people under that failed system.

As the delegation traveled through Vietnam, we spent time in Hue, Hoi An, the DMZ, Khe Sanh, My Lai, Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho, Chau Duc and many other towns and cities. In each city, we visited cultural and historical sites to include the Hue Citadel, the Ho Chi Minh Trail near the DMZ, Cham Ruins, the War Remnants Museum, the tunnel complex at Cu Chi, the Cao Dai Temple at Tay Ninh, and many other places. One of the most emotional experiences for the delegation took place during the visit to My Lai where the tour guide provided a very moving and tearful description of those events.

During our trip, university and other officials throughout Vietnam greeted the delegation and provided our students with a better understanding of life, education, and society in Vietnam. The university visits also brought wonderful opportunities for TTU students to meet

with Vietnamese students allowing for very rewarding person-to-person interactions.

The last ten days of the trip included stops in Vientiane, Laos, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, Cambodia, and

entire delegation as we visited the Tuol Sleng Prison and the Killing Fields of Cheong Ek, the horrific reminders of the Khmer Rouge genocide.

As we traveled throughout Southeast Asia, the delegation also received briefings at the US Embassies as well as from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hanoi. All of these briefings provided our students with a much deeper understanding of the intricacies of working in these countries as well as a better appreciation for the services provided our country by America's diplomats and military personnel who serve in these positions. The briefing from the Lao Embassy was particularly informative and detailed. The biggest surprise, however, occurred in Cambodia when the delegation met with Ambassador Joseph A. Mussomeli. Both briefings provided our students with a far better appreciation of the challenges faced by these two countries economically, socially, and politically.

The 2007 Vietnam Center Study Abroad in Southeast Asia, sponsored by the Lee Roy Herron Scholarship, was a stunning success for the entire delegation. Tech students came away from this trip with a far greater appreciation for the history and culture of the region. Perhaps of equal importance, they came home to the US with a far deeper appreciation for the many blessings and opportunities we enjoy in our country, making them better students and citizens. ★

If you would like to contribute to the Lee Roy Herron Scholarship or to the Vietnamese or Cambodian Student Scholarships, please contact us at 806-742-3742.



Floating market on Canal in Bangkok



TTU and USSH students

Bangkok, Thailand. Travel to these three countries provided our Herron scholars with a much broader understanding of Southeast Asia and the many regional distinctions that exist between the countries in that part of our world. Phnom Penh was a powerful experience for the

THE CONTINUING — AMERICA'S

Researchers visit The Vietnam Archive in search of clues to assist in the search for U.S. servicemen still missing in action from the Vietnam War

By Victoria Lovelady

For two weeks in August of this year, a group of researchers from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) visited The Vietnam Archive in search of clues to aid in their continuing search for U.S. servicemen still missing since the end of the war in Vietnam. JPAC is part of the U.S. Department of Defense and is responsible for locating all of America's missing as a result of any of our nation's military conflicts. There are approximately 1,800 soldiers still reported missing from the Vietnam War.

JPAC is experienced in using the resources of the Vietnam Archive. The organization visited the Archive back in 2003 and since that visit they have utilized the Virtual Vietnam Archive and have found numerous leads in their continuing investigation for the missing. A collection at the archive that has been very useful to JPAC is the Captured North Vietnamese Documents of the Combined Document Exploitation Center (CDEC). This collection is also housed at the U.S. National Archives and the Vietnam Archive's copy of the CDEC collection was purchased from them. The CDEC collection is located entirely on

microfilm and was photographed and put into microfilm format during the conflict in Vietnam. Special machines created by

Unfortunately, these machines were left behind and because the cataloging of the collection was done by machines that no longer exist, the CDEC collection is extremely difficult to search. Locating a particular document within the collec-

tion is incredibly time consuming and labor intensive. The collection totals 954 reels and contains an average of 1,500 to 3,000 frames on each reel, so locating a particular document in this immense collection is almost impossible without looking at each frame on each reel.

The Vietnam Archive recognized this problem and began digitizing the CDEC collection in 2004. Through the generosity of the Houston Endowment who provided grant funding for this project, a high-speed microfilm scanner was purchased to digitize the CDEC collection as well as the other microfilm collections contained at the Vietnam Archive. Since the beginning of this project, a number of part-time student staff members have painstakingly entered the details of each document into the Virtual Vietnam Archive. This process has provided a valuable resource to JPAC and other researchers by allowing the CDEC collection to be easily searched using key terms

and date ranges. For the first time since the war, these documents can be easily located by anyone with an internet connection. To date, approximately 24,000



Top: The high-speed microfilm scanner purchased by the Vietnam Archive.
Bottom: JPAC researcher James Coyle searching through CDEC microfilm.



IBM were used to microfilm the collection and each frame was given a binary code so that individual frames could be easily recalled using specific dates.

ING SEARCH FOR S MISSING —

CDEC documents are available on the Virtual Vietnam Archive. Thousands of CDEC documents are still waiting to be placed on the Virtual Archive, but this is an ongoing process that will continue for years to come.

James Coyle, a JPAC researcher, explained that the CDEC documents on the Virtual Vietnam Archive have been very useful and that this collection remains a top priority in JPAC's search for the missing. Coyle and his team of two other researchers, Minh Vu and Tuan Tran, said that the 12 page guide attached to the CDEC collection is almost unusable, so the archive's digitization efforts are very useful towards allowing them to more effectively search the contents of this collection. During the team's visit, the researchers searched through personnel rosters of enemy units in the portion of the CDEC collection that has not yet been placed on the Virtual Archive. These personnel rosters are very valuable to JPAC because it helps them discover names of Vietnamese who were witnesses to various events. Coyle explained that the information contained in the CDEC collection gives them a lot of background information which is useful to the JPAC analysts when they carry out their investigations in Vietnam because they know the context in which events took place and information about units that might have been involved.

Having this knowledge enables the analysts to ask better questions when conducting their field investigations. Coyle also said that he and his fellow researchers are hoping to be able to turn some of the names on the personnel rosters

loss of an American who is now unaccounted. "Some of the stuff we printed out was just to offer our analysts back at the unit an idea of the types of materials that are available online, but also those personnel rosters and a number of other

items that we recovered we hope will be very valuable" Coyle said.

One of the objectives of this research group's visit was to gain a better idea of where certain items are located within the CDEC collection so they will be able to conduct more effective online searches when they return home. Another main purpose of their visit to the archive was to survey the entire catalogue of holdings at the archive and determine what other collections might be useful. "The John Prados Collection is a very valuable resource because it contains a year's worth of government records that have the enemy order of battle – that meaning the enemy units that were known to be operating in Vietnam and an estimation of the location where they were operating – this is also very valuable information what will help guide our own activities in Vietnam" Coyle said.

The Vietnam Archive will continue to place CDEC and other pertinent collections online to assist JPAC in resolving these cases to help bring closure to countless American families. ★



Top and Bottom: JPAC researchers Minh Vu and Tuan Tran search through microfilm and the Virtual Archive for potential leads in their investigation.



into leads for investigation. This occurs when they target a specific person because they were in a unit that was involved with an incident involving the

Additions to the Archive

The Vietnam Archive's mission is to collect and preserve the documentary record of the Vietnam War. The first collection received by the Archive - a package of letters from a Navy hospital corpsman to his family while serving in Vietnam - symbolizes our commitment to preserve the record of individuals and provide greater understanding of their experiences. While the Vietnam Archive continues this commitment as its primary objective, it has expanded its collection policy to include records of veterans' organizations and scholars of the period as well as other individuals and organizations who share experiences from the war in Vietnam. In addition to collecting materials related to the American experience in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia, the Vietnam Archive also collects materials related to the North and South Vietnamese perspectives, as well as the perspectives of allies who fought alongside each nation. While much attention is given to the military and diplomatic aspects of the war, the Vietnam Archive also strives to preserve the records of people indirectly involved in the conflict and those active on the home front, including family members of soldiers and pro-war and anti-war advocates. If you are interested in donating to the Vietnam Archive, please visit our website at www.vietnam.ttu.edu or call us at (806) 742-9010.

The Vietnam Archive would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their collection contributions this year. For more information about the contents of any of the collections listed here, please visit:
www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive

12th Cavalry Regiment
Association
12th Evacuation Hospital
361st Aviation Company
A Troop, 4/12th Cavalry
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